

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOCIALIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET JUNE 5-7 TO TAKE STOCK OF POST-REFERENDUM POLITICAL SITUATION. DEBATE FOCUSED ON RELATIONS WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS, ANTI-FASCISM, AND PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH THE GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION. FINAL DOCUMENT, WHICH TOOK LESS POLEMICAL TONE THAN MUCH OF DEBATE, WAS APPROVED BY DEMARTINO MAJORITY (STRENGTHENED BY CONFLUENCE OF BERTOLDI FACTION) AND NENNI AUTONOMISTS. MANCINI GROUP ABSTAINED AND LOMBARDI LEFT-WING VOTED SEPARATE DOCUMENT. MAIN RESULT OF CC WAS TO INCREASE SOCIALIST PRESSURE ON THE DC TO GRANT THE PSI A GREATER WEIGHT WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION AND THE COMMUNISTS A MORE INFLUENTIAL OPPOSITION ROLE. RENEWED UNITY OF DE MARTINO AND BERTOLDI FACTIONS COST NENNI AUTONOMISTS THEIR KEY POSITION IN NUMERICAL MAKEUP OF DEMARTINO MAJORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEBATE AND FINAL DOCUMENT SHOWED BROAD CONSENSUS IN PSI FOR USING LEVERAGE OF REFERENDUM VICTORY TO MOVE POLITICAL AXIS OF COALITION TO THE LEFT AND DEVELOP "NEW RELATIONSHIPS" WITH THE PCI. MAJORITY DOCUMENT CALLED FOR AN END TO DC "HEGEMONY" BUT CONFIRMED VALIDITY OF CONTINUING DC-PSI COOPERATION. REJECTING ALTERNATIVE OF A LAY PARTY FRONT WITH OR WITHOUT THE PCI, OR A "LEFT ALTERNATIVE" ALLIANCE WITH THE PCI,
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DOCUMENT EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND MAJORITY SHOULD INVOLVE

THE PCI IN THE "COMMON RESPONSIBILITY" OF DEFENDING THE DEMOCRATIC ORDER AND HELPING THE COUNTRY OUT OF ITS GRAVE ECONOMIC TROUBLE.

3. REFERRING TO THE RECENT BRESCIA BOMBING AND THE CAPTURE OF NEO-FASCIST TERRORISTS NEAR RIETI, THE CC MAJORITY DOCUMENT TERMED THE FIGHT AGAINST "FASCIST SUBVERSION" THE FIRST TASK OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES. IT CALLED FOR THE ROOTING OUT OF SUPPORTERS OF TERRORISTS INCLUDING THOSE IN THE "STATE APPARATUS" WHO HAVE BEEN "INDULGENT" TOWARDS FASCISM. THE DOCUMENT FOUND PROOF IN RECENT EVENTS OF THE FALSITY OF THE THEORY OF "OPPOSITE EXTREMES" (I.E., THAT VIOLENCE ORIGINATES AND THREATENS PUBLIC ORDER FROM THE FAR LEFT AS WELL AS THE FAR RIGHT). CONVENIENTLY FORGETTING THE EVIDENCE OF THE SOSSI CASE AND "REF BRIGADE" ACTIVITY, THE SOCIALISTS SEIZED UPON THE BRESCIA AND RIETI CASES TO BLAME VIRTUALLY ALL POLITICAL VIOLENCE ON THE EXTREME RIGHT.

4. WHILE ADMITTING THE GRAVITY OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE INEVITABILITY OF SACRIFICES, THE MAJORITY DOCUMENT SECTION ON MONETARY POLICY OF CREDIT RESTRICTIONS. THE DOCUMENT DEMANDED A SPEEDY END TO THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD CREDIT SQUEEZE, BUT WAS INEVITABLY VAGUE ON SPECIFIC COUNTER PROPOSALS, PERHAPS DUE TO THE ONGOING DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION. HOWEVER, THE DOCUMENT TERMED A "POSITIVE" GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIONS THE "ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION" OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND PSI VICE SECRETARY MOSCA (DEMARTINO) STATED PLAINLY DURING THE DEBATE THAT THE CONTINUAL PARTICIPATION OF THE PSI IN GOVERNMENT DEPENDS ON THE FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT

-
UNION NEGOTIATIONS.

5. THE FINAL CC DOCUMENT WAS VOTED BY THE DE MARTINO MAJORITY, AUGMENTED BY THE ADDITION OF THE SMALL BERTOLDI FORCES WHICH RE-JOINED THE FACTION OF THE PARTY SECRETARY, AND BY THE NENNI AUTONOMISTS. THE MANCINI GROUP (20 PERCENT OF THE PARTY) MAINTAINED ITS POSITION TO THE LEFT OF MAJORITY AND ABSTAINED, WHILE THE SMALL LOMBARDI LEFT-WING (12 PERCENT OF THE PARTY) PRESENTED A DOCUMENT SUPPORTING THE THEORY OF A "DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE" OF LEFT-WING FORCES INCLUDING THOSE DISSIDENT CATHOLICS WHO BROKE WITH THE DC ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM.

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6. COMMENT: THE NET RESULT OF THE PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IS TO INTENSIFY SOCIALIST PRESSURE ON THE DC FOR A GREATER PSI VOICE WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION, AND A LARGER OPPOSITION ROLE FOR THE PCI IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE, PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PSI WANTS BASIS", AND DOES NOT NOW WANT A GOVERNMENT CRISIS. THE RE-ENTRY OF THE BERTOLDI FACTION (10 PERCENT OF THE PARTY) INTO DE MARTINO'S GROUP GIVES DE MARTINO A COMFORTABLE 55 PERCENT MAJORITY

AND DEPRIVES THE NENNI AUTONOMISTS (13 PERCENT OF PARTY) OF THEIR
KEY ROLE IN THE NUMERICAL FORMATION OF THE MAJORITY. THIS
DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THE NENNI
FORCES TO SHIFT LEFTWARDS AND PERHAPS ENTER THE MAJORITY. BEAUDRY

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